

# VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

## NEWS

A NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLICATION SPONSORED BY VECA, THE VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION / VECA.ORG / VECA901@GMAIL.COM

FALL 2016



## National Night Out 2016

VECA's annual Neighborhood Night Out event was held at the VECA Welcome Center on Tuesday, August 2. Neighbors talked with Memphis Police officers and children climbed aboard a Memphis Fire Department truck. A special treat was a visit from Michael Rallings, Interim Memphis Police Director. Rallings officially became the director the following week (photos right with VECA President Lilley Gilkey and neighbor Devante Webster).

Even a laidback event like National Night Out takes a team of volunteers to pull off. VECA is grateful for the help that came from all around: Cash Savers donated hot dogs; Turner Dairy donated ice cream cups; neighbor Celia Mason collected children's books to distribute; Peter Brasfield and Jerry Maynard made and assembled the basketball backboard; The Beethoven Club donated folding chairs to VECA; Real Good Dog Rescue brought pups for the children to play with; Overton Park Community Farmers Market brought peaches to sell; and Eneidy's Tamales set up shop selling four kinds of delicious tamales. VECA volunteers helped set up and break down. Special thanks to Mercy Hill Church for all their help in setting up, working the event, and breaking down. We could not have done this without all of you!

This year's event coincided with a time of community prayer on the steps of St. Therese of the Little Flower Church (photo below). Over 50 neighbors gathered to pray for peace, safety and unity for the neighborhood. Many thanks to Modeane Thompson, one of VECA's founders, for organizing the prayer time (photo below). 🙏.





## COP STOP AND NEIGHBORFEST

Saturday, October 29 - On Your Street

The idea of Cop Stop came about in 2014 by Germantown resident Joanna Young. Through a casual conversation with a police officer friend, she invited him and other officers to her home for dinner. She and other neighbors got together and started providing a home-cooked meal for officers every other Friday. Since then, the idea has taken off and lots of other neighborhoods offer Cop Stop meals.

VECA residents heard about the effort through Evergreen neighbors and wanted to get involved. VECA's first Cop Stop was a lunch at the Welcome Center on Saturday, June 25 (photos below). The outpouring of food and treats from neighbors was a great showing of their respect and appreciation for our police officers. Eleven officers stopped by, and the leftovers were taken to the Crump Station for officers on other shifts to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who helped!

**The next Cop Stop will be woven into our NeighborFest event on Saturday, October 29.** Here's how it will work: We're asking VECA neighbors to plan their block's NeighborFest — a block party on your street. Your block party can be anytime the weekend of October 28-30. Someone please take the lead. Plan when and where on your block to hold the event. Ask neighbors for help. Make a flyer and distribute it on your street. Keep it simple and have fun.

Lastly, please let VECA know your plan and we will let the Crump Station police officers know where to stop by (email us at [veca901@gmail.com](mailto:veca901@gmail.com)). ☺



VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS  
Fall 2016

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### DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT PUBLICATION

November 1  
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Neighborhood Networks Lilly Gilkey  
Blight Busters Chris Floyd  
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VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The newsletter, VECA mail, annual meeting, and committee activities are ways in which VECA communicates with its residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.

The VECA area is bounded by Watkins on the West, Cypress Creek on the North, Springdale on the East, and North Parkway on the South.

VECA  
1680 Jackson Avenue  
901.276.1782  
Website and Calendar: [veca.org](http://veca.org)  
Email: [veca901@gmail.com](mailto:veca901@gmail.com)

## VECA Annual Membership Form – Become a Member

Join your neighbors in helping Vollintine Evergreen continue to be the great neighborhood it is! Dues are tax deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Be one of the following types of team members:

Membership \$25 • Family/Household Membership \$35 • 45th Anniversary/Gift Membership \$45 •

Neighbor \$75 • Leader \$100 • Other \_\_\_\_\_



## Giving to VECA

In addition to being a dues paying member of VECA, there are several other ways you can contribute financially to the neighborhood:

**Amazon Smile** : Amazon Smile supports VECA and the V&E Greenline when you shop. You can shop at Amazon and make a donation to the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association of 0.5 percent of the purchase price. This donation is made by Amazon, with no charge to the customer. The funds will be equally split between VECA's most visible projects: The V&E Greenline and the VECA Welcome Center. If you shop at Amazon, please sign up to have a donation made to VECA. You will be shopping at AmazonSmile.com, which is the same as regular Amazon with a different screen. Here's how you sign up for the donation:

- Go to the website: smile.amazon.com and sign in to Amazon
- In the box that says "pick your own charitable organization," type in Vollintine Evergreen Community Association and search.
- Next, select Vollintine Evergreen Community Association

**United Way:** Donate to VECA Through United Way. The United Way campaign allows you to donate directly to VECA! United Way donations are used by many nonprofit organizations and is a great opportunity for you to give to your neighborhood! To Donate to VECA: use the back of the yellow sheet of the United Way form. The bottom of Item 3 has the following statement: "You may also support another health and human services organization in the United Way of the Mid-South service area." Enter VECA or Vollintine Evergreen as the agency name and the amount. Please contact VECA at 276-1782 or veqa901@gmail.com for any questions or to let us know about your contribution!

**Kroger Plus Card:** Use your Kroger Plus Card and donate to VECA. Create an account on the Kroger page at: <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>. Once signed in, click on "My Account." In the Community Rewards section, click on "Enroll". The VECA number is 18512. Please contact us at veqa901@gmail.com if you have any questions about using the Kroger Plus Card.

## Mayor Strickland and Neighborhood Watch

### Tuesday, September 26, 6-7 pm

The National Neighborhood Watch program is one of the oldest and most well-known crime prevention concepts in history that stresses community awareness and teamwork. Neighborhood Watch in Memphis was officially formulated in 1984. It is an organization which empowers local citizens to take back and maintain a better quality of life in their respective neighborhoods. This program has shown that citizens help in the reduction of local crime by being vigilant and by partnering with local law enforcement to address the crime related issues and economical challenges within their community. ([www.memphispolice.org/initiatives.asp](http://www.memphispolice.org/initiatives.asp))

VECA is an official member of the Neighborhood Watch program. Meetings are held at Crump Station Monthly the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm. You can share your concerns and ideas to help make our neighborhoods safe.

VECA holds quarterly NW meetings as well at the VECA Welcome Center. Mayor Jim Strickland will be the guest speaker at the VECA Neighborhood Watch on Tuesday, September 26, 6-7pm at the VECA Welcome Center, 1680 Jackson Avenue. 🐦

Upcoming VECA NW Meetings at the Welcome Center:

- **Tuesday, September 26, 6-7 pm,**  
**Guest Speaker, Mayor Jim Strickland**
- Tuesday, December 19, 6-7 pm



Crump Station (photo left)  
949 E.H. Crump  
Memphis, TN 38104  
Front Desk: (901) 636-4600  
Traffic Violations: (901) 636-4568  
GIB Local Investigations: (901) 636-4793  
Neighborhood Watch: (901) 636-4625  
[www.memphispolice.org/crump.asp](http://www.memphispolice.org/crump.asp)



Connect with Vollintine Evergreen Neighbors via Nextdoor, a private social network for neighborhoods. Go to [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com) and create an account by entering your address and email address. Once the address is verified, you can connect to other Vollintine Evergreen neighbors and talk to each other about things going on in the neighborhood, whether that's exchanging recommendations on local service providers, like a contractor, a painter, a babysitter, or talking about local restaurants. People also use the site to talk about more personal things, like lost pets. Crime and prevention is a frequent topic and Nextdoor is increasingly becoming like a virtual neighborhood watch for the neighborhood. Technology is helping people become more connected, and you are invited to join the conversation.



**Help your Neighborhood**  
**Report crime to police so they know**  
**where it is taking place**

#### Report Drugs and Crime Anonymously

- Police Dispatch: 545-2677 (then press zero). Listen to the prompts. You can advise the dispatcher if you want to remain anonymous
- Drug Hotline: 525-3673 is anonymous
- Gang Hotline: 528-2338 is anonymous
- Crime Stoppers: 528-2274 is anonymous
- Crump Station: 636-4631- this gets you to the front desk officer. If you are calling to file a complaint only, advise the officer that you wish to remain anonymous.
- SeniorBsafe hotline: 528-0699 is anonymous

#### When reporting

- Be specific on the address
- Be specific on the type of crime you are seeing
- Describe the persons who are the problem in as much detail as possible



SUNDAYS 5PM | [VE.LHCHURCH.COM](http://VE.LHCHURCH.COM)

## Church of the Good Shepherd

An Episcopal Church  
Organized in Memphis in 1865



*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give them eternal life. -John 10:27*

Church of the Good Shepherd  
The Rev. William N. Fry III, Rector  
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Services: Sundays, 7:30 and 10:30 am  
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To report street light outages, call MLGW at 320-1497



To report code violations call Memphis City Government at 311 (tall weeds, junk vehicles, vehicles parked on grass, etc.)

# HUG and Adopt a Park

By Marci Hendrix

HUG founder Jo Ann Street and her fellow neighbors are a perfect example of what a passionate group of people can do when they put their mind to something. HUG evolved from a litter patrol brigade without a name in 2014 – to HUG – a strategically focused effort aimed at improving three area parks: Hollywood Park, University Park, and Gooch Park. The name HUG came about in 2015, and is a delightful acronym for this team of volunteers. Neighborhood kids came up with a logo of two hands in the shape of a heart, and they fondly refer to Joann as “the Park Lady.”

Before officially becoming HUG, the group spent a lot of time talking to neighbors and agencies looking for strategic ways to make small improvements in the Hollywood Springdale area. “We’re not asking for much,” became their mantra as they picked up litter – and it’s true – a trash-free neighborhood isn’t so much to ask for!

In 2015, the team consulted with Mary Wilder who encouraged them to apply for a grant. While the grant didn’t pan out, the exercise of writing a proposal helped the team organize and make a plan. They focused on who they were and what they wanted, and as a result, they made a commitment to focus on the area’s parks. Joann envisions neighbors building community as they work together to keep greenspaces sustainable, clean and beautiful.

For the past two summers, HUG has partnered with Nutrition Services of Shelby County Schools to feed children at Gooch and University Parks. Memphis Park Services provided the needed picnic tables and water fountain at University Park. This summer they fed 75 children a day at Gooch Park and 120 at University Park. HUG also worked with Nutrition Services to provide meals during the summer for children at University Gardens Manor apartment complex.

One of HUG’s partners is KIPP Memphis Academy. Students there can receive community service hours for working with HUG, and KIPP provides HUG with meeting space.

HUG hosted a bike safety rodeo in the spring with Syd Learner of the Greater Memphis Greenline and bicycle helmets were distributed. Two movie nights were held this summer with big screens and lots of popcorn.

Kudos to HUG for receiving the 2015 Faith in Action award in the category of “Largest Team Neighborhood Org Less Than 99.”

Kudos also to HUG for taking the initiative to become an official park adopter. Memphis City Beautiful created the Adopt-A-Park program this spring, and HUG was eager to submit an application. HUG has now officially adopted the three parks – and they could use our help with clean-ups and programs.

VECA neighbors can help right away with supplies like trash bags, gloves and hand wipes. Another special item that the kids love are trash picker uppers (or pinch style pick-up tools). Gate City Hardware on Summer has the tool at a discount rate of \$14.00 (ask for Tina, Scott, or Sly). Pinch tools are also available at Harbor Freight.

VECA neighbors can also participate in monthly cleanups.

We’re going to keep you posted on HUG activities! 🐼

**Next HUG Cleanup is Saturday, September 17, 9am-noon**

**For more information, contact Joann Street via [mommadear1@yahoo.com](mailto:mommadear1@yahoo.com).**

## HUG Wish List

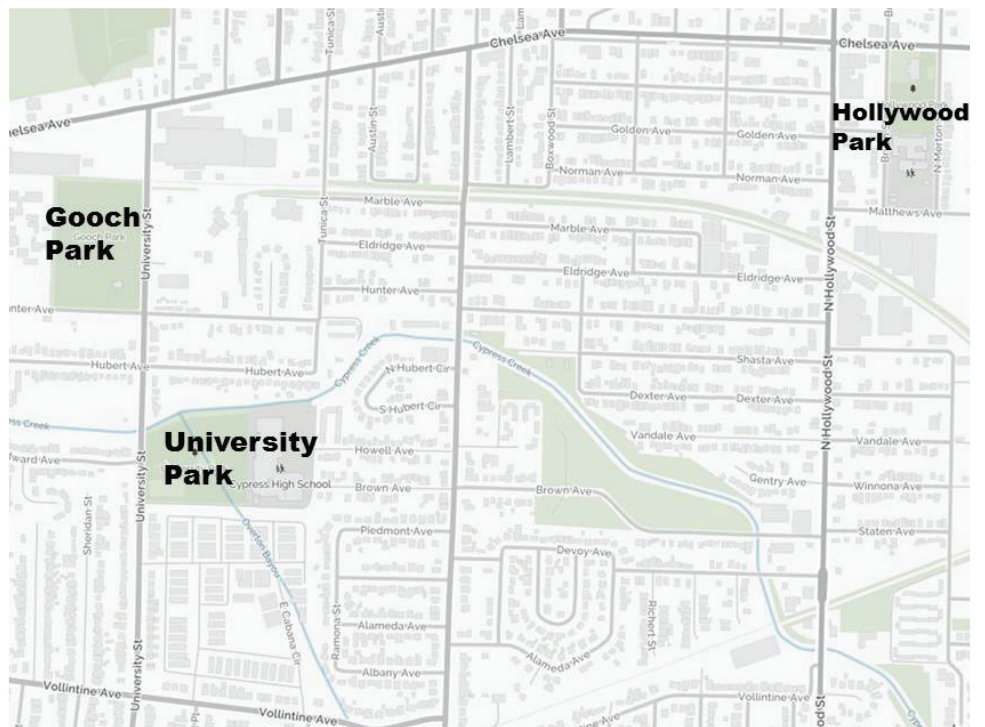
- Monkey bars
- Merry go round
- After school program at KIPP
- Supper program for at-risk kids
- Improvements to the Tennis Courts
- Bike club
- Water fountain at Gooch
- Portapotties for events



Above: HUG coordinator Joann Street (aka, the Park Lady) and Frankie Dowell  
Below: HUG volunteers at a recent cleanup event



NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A SMALL GROUP OF COMMITTED PEOPLE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.... - *Margaret Mead*



Gooch Park - 1974 Hunter  
Hollywood Park - 1560 N. Hollywood  
University Park - University @ Edward Ave.

# Green Triangles

## Moving Towards Implementation

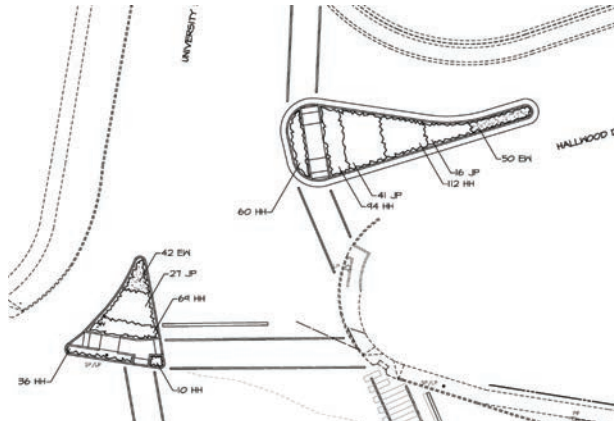
By Cathy Marcinko

As a result of a successful ioby fundraising campaign by VECA's Historic Committee and the generosity of many project donors, two asphalt-covered pedestrian islands at Jackson, University and Hallwood will be filled with colorful plants and flowers by this time next year.

In early July, landscape architect Ritchie Smith, of Ritchie Smith and Associates, met with the VECA Historic Committee and presented a plan for the triangles. The plan lays out an attractive and easy-to-maintain planting scheme that includes colored bands of plants arranged to establish a visual rhythm as people walk or drive by. The plants, including California Gray Rush (*Juncus patens*), Going Bananas Evergreen Daylily (*Hemerocallis*) and Hybrid Wallflower (*Erysimum* "Winter Orchid"), all grow relatively low (12-24 inches). This height will preserve traffic sight lines, as is required by the city engineer's office. They are also relatively drought-resistant, which is critical since the triangles cannot be irrigated. The existing sidewalks on the triangles will be retained and/or improved, as will the curbs.

Mr. Smith, whose office prepared the plans pro bono, submitted the plans to the city engineer's office (which was already aware of the project) at the end of July. Once the plans are approved, VECA will move on to the next stage of the project: working with the city on removal of the asphalt and filling the islands with topsoil. The Historic Committee hopes this work can be done this fall. The topsoil and plants will be added by VECA volunteers; ongoing maintenance will be the responsibility of area neighbors. Funds raised through the ioby project will be used to pay for the topsoil and plants.

The Historic Committee would like to acknowledge and thank Ritchie Smith and his office for their generous contribution to this project, the excellent plan which they provided and time spent working with the committee. Our thanks also to ioby Memphis, which provided the fundraising platform and guidance for the campaign. The committee welcomes any feedback from donors and neighbors about the proposed plan. We will put out a call for volunteers when the time comes to begin work to fill and plant the triangles later this fall. If you are interested in helping with the project, please email [Cathy.Marcinko@gmail.com](mailto:Cathy.Marcinko@gmail.com) or [Steve.Gadbois@MUSowls.org](mailto:Steve.Gadbois@MUSowls.org).



# Rhodes Day of Services

By Katie Cynkar

On Saturday, August 20, the incoming first-year class of Rhodes College joined members of the college's Kinney Service Program in working on various service projects throughout Memphis in an event called Welcome Week Day of Service. The purpose of this day was to display the importance of Rhodes' relationship with the Memphis community through serving our fellow community members. Similarly, this day was intended to introduce first-year students to the city that they will live in for the next four years. And what better way than to volunteer with VECA on the V&E Greenline.

I, along with the members of the V&E Greenline committee, had the privilege of guiding 18 Rhodes students in maintaining the trails of the Greenline. We cleared a path of overgrown branches as well as learned a bit about the Greenline's history. When volunteers first worked on the Greenline in 1995, the trail was largely made of trash heaps. Through hard work from many volunteers over the years, the 1.7-mile trail has become an integral part of its adjoining neighborhoods, including the Rhodes College campus. The integration of these communities was witnessed as Rhodes students and neighborhood members, alike, ran along the trail as we worked.

Being able to witness these communities joining together allowed first-year Rhodes students, as well as myself, to see what a privilege it is to live in community and impact one another, as we grow in awareness. We realized that we are not simply picking up sticks, but rather, we are maintaining a resource for everyone in our Memphis community to use and enjoy. By doing so, we were able to return to the community what they have previously given to us: a clean space and a welcoming path. 🐾



## St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

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Weekdays  
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Children at University Park. "HUG" story on page 4.



Posted on Nextdoor by Jenny Baker, July 11, and reprinted with permission: If anyone drove by my house on Saturday, they might have wondered what was going on bc there were 6 THP motorcycle officers in the front yard... THP West Bureau Motors in Memphis working to reduce unrestrained fatalities took time to drop off some donated books to my little neighborhood library. Thanks Tennessee Highway Patrol! 🙏



By Peace Lutheran Church  
There is another Little Free Library in the Vollintine Evergreen community! It is located on the grounds of Peace Lutheran Church at 1548 Jackson Ave. On Sunday, August 21st, Peace Lutheran Church members as well as neighbors gathered together to dedicate this library. Vicar Sandra Braasch blessed the library and blessed those in this community who will take a book or return a book that it may promote literacy and the love of reading. This celebration ended with a community meal and the handing out of school supplies given to Peace by St Luke's Lutheran Church in Cordova. Peace Lutheran Church received a grant from Thrivent Action team towards this community activity. 🙏

# V&E HISTORIC DISTRICT

By Cathy Marcinko

If all works out as planned, Vollintine Evergreen will become the first neighborhood in Memphis to have its own street signs. Many neighborhoods across the city have signs marking entry points into their neighborhood, and Vollintine Evergreen will soon join their ranks with a unique sign design that attaches to existing posts below the green street-name signs. To get this new sign design approved, the committee worked with the city engineer's office for many months to create specifications that the office thought would work for Memphis, including size, height, placement and color options.

The funding for the new signs is coming from VECA's second lobby campaign, led by Natasha Strong, chair of the Historic Committee, which raised more than \$3,400 for the project. A number of sign design and color alternatives were created by designer Suzan Fleischman, also a member of the Historic Committee. The committee,

board and neighborhood residents were asked to vote on the alternatives. The winner was a sign that says V&E Historic District with the VECA leaf motif, in white lettering on a brown background. The committee then sent the specifications and quantity (29) to several manufacturers in Memphis to get bids for making and installing the signs. Signworks, in Cooper-Young, had the best bid and was awarded the contract.

The committee is working with Signworks to ensure that the design will work with the brackets that will hold the signs to the posts. Since some signs are proposed to go on MLGW poles, the committee is working with MLGW civil engineers to get approvals for those pole locations, the majority of which are at major intersections. The signs will be interspersed throughout the neighborhood at key street intersections and where streets cross the V&E Greenline. The committee is hopeful that the signs will be up before the end of the year and will be another exciting and visible "sign" that Vollintine Evergreen is a neighborhood worth watching! 🐦

Left:  
Mrs. Jackson,  
Principal of  
Vollentine School



Middle:  
Thanks to  
neighbors at  
Parkway Tower  
donated supplies  
and backpacks



By Sara First

VECA wrapped up its 2016-2017 school supply drive Saturday, August 6, just in time for the start of school on Monday, August 8. We were once again blown away by our neighbors' generosity. We collected four 40-gallon bins of pencils, paper, pens, glue sticks, backpacks, uniforms, and other assorted supplies, as well as \$238 in cash donations for materials on behalf of Snowden Elementary and Middle School and Vollentine Elementary School. Additionally, the residents of Parkway House donated four large boxes of supplies for Snowden (their neighborhood school).

Snowden and Vollentine are not just beautiful, historic buildings. They are building Memphis's and our neighborhood's future. It's never too late to help, however. Schools can always use more Ticonderoga pencils or uniform pieces – especially as colder weather approaches. Watch this space and Nextdoor for more opportunities to help support our great neighborhood schools. 🐦



Rhodes Day of Service. Story on page 5.

**Did you know!**

**A Tribute to the Best of Memphis' Sand-Lot Footballers**

By Ray Skinner, Jr.

From the *Old Shelby County Magazine*, No 59, 2003

Reprinted with permission

They celebrate battlefields with bronze plaques, but there was a sort of battlefield in the heart of Memphis that has never been memorialized. Briefly the Smith Lumber Company field was mentioned in the book *Showdown in Memphis* by Tom Hammond, which was about Mr. Crump's Blind Benefit game, a high school post-season bowl game. However, I had this idea long before I read his book.

The site was a field on Tutwiler at Maury, just west of Dickinson. It wasn't even on Smith Lumber Company land, which was to the south across the railroad tracks; in fact, it was between two pumping stations of our waterworks. The field was just barely smaller than a regulation field in width and length and trees on each side made good yard markers. The time was in the late 1930s and the game played was sand-lot tackle football. There were no teams, no coaches, no uniforms and no adults. The participants were born in the late 1920s, just before 1929.



What's so special about neighborhood football? There were other locations even around the Smith field such as Little Flower Church, Vollandine Park, Snowden School, the center of North Parkway west of McLean, the side yard of the Galloway mansion, and Williamson Park. Farther south, games were played at the Montesi field behind Clanlo Hall, Catholic High and the Watkins field in a vacant area behind 1876 Central, Cowden, Barksdale and McLean. It was pre-World War II with no television and little money for movies. Most of those playing would soon be playing for their junior high teams followed by high schools. Also they were good athletes and played other sports. Since there were no referees, it was a good thing nearly all came from stable, moral families; they policed themselves.

I personally only played baseball on that lot to practice with the Clayton Brown team in the Civitan League; therefore this story is informed hearsay, and I may leave something out. Of the 33 boys who played football on the Smith Lumber Co. field, 30 played on their high school teams. They were the best high school teams in the city. The year of Mr. Crump's game between Central and Christian Brothers, the entire team of Central was offered football scholarship by Louisiana State University and three eventually made All-American in college. If Central was good, you must remember that Christian Brothers played them twice to a virtual standstill. Nine of the Smith's 17 boys on Christian Brothers' team played college football. Seven of the 10 Smith boys on Central's team played in college. Two of the Smith players made All-American teams, and one played with the New York Giants professional football team. They tore up the grass during the season, but it grew back in the summer. The same is that not only is there no marker, but the field is not being used.

They were just kids entertaining themselves in a constructive way. I said there wore no uniforms, but there were no blue jeans as there are today, so most wore regular long pants or corduroy knickers and T-shirts. High top tennis shoes or non-slip Oxfords were the norm. Only Percy Roberts will admit to having cleats and shoulder pads. Judge William (Slick) Williams said that when he was to run the ball, he borrowed Billy Colley's helmet, which nearly always gave away the play. Only one person, Joe Johnson, could remember furnishing the ball. Sides were chosen alternatively by probably the best players present. If there was an odd number of boys, sometimes the odd one was given to a team, or left out until someone got tired or someone else came. Injuries were few and none appear to be permanent to this day.

Now comes the hard part, and may everyone forgive me – the list of name:

- George Bland CB, Vanderbilt
- Ray Burdick CB
- Billy Colley
- Merrick (Dippy) Coles CB, Merchant Marine, MSU

- Hall Crawford CB, MSU
- Jack Doyle Central
- Jimmy Doyle CB, 11th Air Force, So. Calif.
- Bussy Dwyer CB
- Jamie Flaniken Central (His father was manager of Smith Lumber Co.)
- Emmet Golden Central
- Joe Gold CB
- Al Heubner CB
- Herbert Heubner CB
- Robert Jeffrey Central, Mississippi State
- Harley Jeffrey Central, Purdue
- Joe Johnson Tech, Ole Miss, N.Y. Giants
- Lamon Kelley CB, MSU
- Johnny Nash CB
- George Nutzell Tech
- Charles Redders CB
- Mike Tansy CB
- Gordon White

- Percy Roberts CB, MSU, All-American
- Elwyn Rowan Central, LSU, Army, All-American
- Jack Salmon Central, Milligan, Notre Dame
- Lou Sampson CB, Notre Dame
- John Schaffier CB, Vanderbilt
- Joe Smith CB, Merchant Marine
- George Sneed Central, Vanderbilt, MSU
- Russell Swink Central
- Aubrey White
- Gordon White

To be entirely fair, going into the service interrupted most if not all of their football careers. In a sense, it worked both ways – some didn't care to play after they came back from the service, but for those who played before or during, they were given four more years of eligibility to play. When the veterans came back at the same time as the Smith players, they got crowded out. One such story happened to Lou Sampson; while he spent four years at Notre Dame on a football scholarship, the returning veterans crowded him off the team. Also, colleges were permitted to bring in as many as 75 freshmen and then weed them down to 25 or 30 they wanted to keep; the rest were sent home. However, the fact remains that they were a remarkable group of citizens. 🐾



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<b>Afterschool Care</b>	<b>3:00 pm—6:00 pm</b>	<b>901.258.9473</b>
<b>We pick up at Snowden, Little Flower and Vollandine</b>		
<b>Adult Education</b>		<b>901.410.5447</b>

**Peace Lutheran Church**

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**Adult Sunday School—9:30 AM**  
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Bible preaching, and a truly caring  
family of Jesus followers."

—Dr. Kendell Easley, Pastor





# Join VECA

By the VECA Membership Committee

**Who is VECA?** You Are VECA.

**What Is VECA?** The Vollintine Evergreen Community Association is your neighborhood organization of neighbors, volunteers, businesses, schools, churches, and you. VECA is a 100% volunteer organization, without any paid staff, that has been serving the Vollintine Evergreen community for 45 years. We rely 100% on the volunteer spirit of the neighborhood to provide all the skills, talent, and help needed to staff the VECA Board, VECA committees, and our annual activities and events.

*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they have the heart.*

~ Elizabeth Andrew

**Why Your Membership Matters.** Your annual membership is extremely important for VECA to continue its mission and legacy of protecting, maintaining and improving our neighborhood's quality of life – we live in a terrific neighborhood!

Joining VECA and being an active member is one of the best ways of staying informed about what's happening in Vollintine Evergreen, and of sharing input on common neighborhood goals for our area.

Did you know our financial funding comes primarily from the annual membership dues from neighbors like you? Your membership dues help cover various project initiatives by VECA committees, and other annual activities and events.

**Why Volunteer?** You – VECA members and volunteers – are the lifeblood of our neighborhood community association. VECA is always looking for volunteers. Regardless of your skill set, we all have something we can contribute back to the community. You can

*Many hands make light work*

~ John Heywood

make a substantial impact by volunteering and sharing your talents and time. It can be very rewarding.

**How Can I Stay Connected to VECA?** As a grass-roots, volunteer-driven organization, there are lots of ways to get connected with your neighbors and support our beautiful and historic neighborhood. Here are just a few ways:

- Visit [veca.org](http://veca.org)
- Join Nextdoor: [vollintineevergreen.nextdoor.com](http://vollintineevergreen.nextdoor.com)
- Subscribe to VECA's weekly ENews to receive timely email updates on neighborhood events (email [vecaenews901@gmail.com](mailto:vecaenews901@gmail.com))
- Volunteer and participate in VECA activities and events (e.g. NeighborFest, National Night Out, V&E Artwalk, Lyndale Community Garden, Cop Stop, etc.)
- Attend Neighborhood Watch meetings, serve on a committee and/or as a VECA board member, sign up to be a block captain, write articles for and/or deliver the V&E newsletter, etc.

A successful neighborhood community association like VECA does not happen overnight and is the result of engaged residents and neighbors for 45 years and counting. Truly it takes engaged citizenry with a commitment to stewardship, energetic participation, hard work, and ongoing communication from residents and vested stakeholders to create and maintain such a wonderful organization.

If you are an existing VECA member, thank you and please encourage others to join and participate on committees. 🙌

Or if you live in Vollintine Evergreen and are not yet a member of VECA, please join us and support our efforts! 🙌

*Individual commitment is a group effort – that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilisation work*

~ Vince Lombardi

## Why Rebrand? Why Now?

### Church Health Center is now Church Health

By Marvin Stockwell

Why rebrand the Church Health Center? That's a good question, and depending on who you're asking, you will likely get a variety of answers. But from where I'm sitting, rebranding the Center isn't just about creating a new logo or writing new taglines.

Let's talk about that logo, though. I love the original Church Health Center logo. When I was hired in 2004 to the Communications team (which, at the time, was a team of one), I remember looking at that little house topped by a cross and thinking how blessed I was to be given the opportunity to join a small band of dedicated people working to care for people with nowhere else to turn for healthcare. I looked at the logo and knew that what the Center lacked in space or personnel, it made up for in compassion for the underserved populations it served and a tenacious spirit to make Memphis healthier.

But what I found, despite the size of my department, was that the Center was in fact a pretty big band of people. And we did more than just provide medical care out of one converted home at the corner of Peabody and Bellevue. We had a dental clinic. We had physical therapists. We had an eye clinic. We counseled people. We helped them set goals on eating better and exercising too. As I got to know the Center better, I realized that our persona as "the little clinic on the corner" wasn't exactly accurate.

That was 12 years ago. Since then, the Center has expanded not only its physical footprint but its services and offerings. Our dental clinic moved offsite so we could see more people. We rededicated that space to specialty care so we could improve care for our patients. The Church Health Center is resourceful and collaborative, and now we are on the cusp of a brand new level of collaboration at Crosstown Concourse, where we will serve more people and serve them better. Partnerships with the YMCA, Memphis Tilth and Southern College of Optometry are just a few of the ways we will take our mission of love and service to the next level!

So even though I love our original logo because it represents a mission and people I love, it no longer accurately represents what Church Health has become or where it's going. We've been more than a little clinic on the corner for a while now, and

the time has come for us to embrace that.

We're Church Health. We care for one another. We stand in the gap, but we don't stand still.

Going through this rebranding process helped us focus on what matters most, the people we serve and the many ways we care for them, but not just them. The new brand focuses us on how we care for our volunteers, our donors, fellow staff members our board members, our community... for our beloved city of Memphis!

In our new logo, you'll see a fingerprint, which speaks to the unique identity God gave each of us. You'll also see a heart in the center of the fingerprint. A heartbeat is something that unifies us, keeps us alive, and moves us forward to care for one another. At the same time, the medical cross honors the fact that we are a ministry that delivers healthcare to those in need.

It has been said many times that a church is not a building, it is the people inside it. Our ministry is the same way. We are comprised of people –all called to the same mission. We care for one another, with one another. For Church Health is a community of caregivers – doctors and nurses, dentists and therapists, volunteers, donors and faith leaders – who, together, prove that acts of love can have profound outcomes. 🙌

*Marvin Stockwell is Communications Director at the Church Health, whose ministries provide healthcare for the working uninsured and promote healthy bodies and spirits for all. For more information, call 901-272-7170 or visit [churchhealth.org](http://churchhealth.org).*



# Neighborhood USA

Neighborhood USA is a national organization designed to build and strengthen neighborhood organizations. The group holds an annual meeting with speakers and informational sessions as one of the many ways to bolster neighborhoods. This spring's meeting was in Memphis. Four VECA volunteers attended through scholarships provided by the Community Development Council of Memphis, of which VECA is a member. Natasha Strong, Chuck Fox, Marci Hendrix and Scott McDermott attended and gave rave reviews of the conference and information sessions.

VECA also participated by conducting a neighborhood tour for conference attendees. People from all over the country toured the VECA community gardens, public art, the V&E Greenline, neighborhood churches, and Rhodes, and saw some homes that show off our wide range of architecture. The tour was a great success. Thank you to all the VECA volunteers who pitched in to provide a reception for the tour attendees. Thanks to Rhodes for funding the reception, and thank you, Mary Wilder, for organizing the tour. The menu included toasted raviolis from Dino's, Black and Blue burgers from Alex's, barbecue from Tops, pizza from Evergreen Grill, and dessert from Café Eclectic. We are grateful for all the help, including volunteers Greg Lieberman, André Glenn, Steve Gadbois, Tony Steinberg, Jeannie Tomlinson Saltmarsh, Justin Burkhead, Katherine Laviera, Lilly Gilkey, David and Karen Edwards, Garnette Stephens, Judith Johnson, and Beverly Marrero. 🍷

# V&E Garden Buddies

By Sara First

If you took a walk along the V&E Greenline between Evergreen and McLean this summer, you might have noticed gigantic sunflowers, a healthy selection of herbs, and a variety of tithonia, milkweed, and sundrops in the butterfly beds. We can thank Mary Wilder and her organizing efforts for many of this year's successes in the garden. Mary started a Garden Buddies group on Nextdoor, inspiring neighbors to gather Saturday mornings from February through July to plant, mulch, weed, drink coffee, and munch on muffins and fruit. The group will be preparing the beds to rest for the winter soon, although some of the volunteers may try some fall planting.



If you are interested in learning about gardening and chatting with some of our most interesting neighbors, message Mary Wilder on Nextdoor and request to join the group. No experience or prior knowledge is necessary – believe me. My husband and I had no idea what we were doing when we began planting at the garden. We're still very much beginners but with the help and support of our master gardener neighbors, I probably know what tithonia means now and I can almost distinguish between grass and an onion. 🍷

# Overton Park and the Parking Solution

By Mary Wilder

To address the issues relating to parking in Overton Park and to protect the integrity of Overton Park, VECA became a member of the Overton Park Alliance.

The Overton Park Alliance (OPA) is a collection of groups that are concerned about Overton Park. Member organizations are Evergreen Historic Neighborhood, Midtown Action Coalition, VECA, Park Friends, Parkway House, Belleair Woods, Memphis Heritage, Stop Hurting Overton Park, Hein Park Neighborhood, Midtown Memphis Development Corp, Humans of Overton Park, Cooper-Young Community Association, Free Parking Brigade, East End Neighborhood, Morningside Place, Central Gardens, Tucker Jefferson, and Physicians for Urban Parks.

The issue was the use by the Zoo of the Greensward (meadow area photo below) in Overton Park for permanent parking.

The OPA and its member organizations were opposed to using the Greensward as a parking solution. When Mayor Strickland took office, he asked the Zoo and the Overton Park Conservancy to enter into mediation to find a solution. On June 30 the mayor proposed a plan. The members of the Overton Park Alliance were grateful to Mayor Strickland for his leadership in putting forth an excellent solution to the problem. His proposal will serve as a starting point for a team approach led by the City of Memphis administration, the Zoo, OPC, City Engineering, Park Services and General Services to develop and implement a long-lasting parking solution that will not involve the Greensward.

The Alliance's support of the plan is contingent on a plan that ensures as few trees and as little parkland as possible are sacrificed for parking. Based on available information, the Alliance considers it a workable plan.

The Overton Park Alliance met with Councilman Worth Morgan early in August so he could share information about the plan and process. Councilman Morgan reported that initial planning has begun on the Greensward parking plan managed by Doug McGowen, City COO. Morgan said that he had begun preliminary meetings with different City agencies. The Zoo and OPC will be actively involved as well.

The January 2019 deadline will allow time for fundraising, planning, and implementation, but the work may be finished before that deadline. City engineers are working with city arborists as well as Zoo arborists. Some preliminary survey work has begun.

Morgan reported that the Zoo's administrators will be responsible for working day-to-day with the City. He said that the barricades and sky cop could be removed because of the peaceful use of the Greensward. The barricades and sky cop will remain off the Greensward unless threatening behavior resumes. Morgan will be calling and meeting with several city departments and OPC and Zoo staffers for follow-up, and he will continue to be involved in the process.

OPA requested of Morgan that a member from each group belonging to OPA be involved in some form of continued updates; these members would in turn keep the community informed of the progress. This article is the beginning of updates that VECA will continue throughout the process. 🍷

Mary Wilder

VECA member and OPA representative

Park Friends VECA representative





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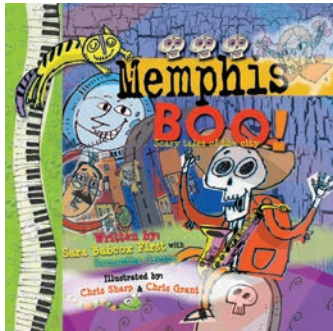


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# KUDOS

**Congratulations** to Dr. Steve Gadbois for winning a national teaching award. The Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished Mathematics Teaching in Middle School and High School award is presented to 20 teachers of middle and high school mathematics teachers who have done outstanding work in motivating students in mathematics through participation in one of the MAA AMC competitions. Steve teaches at Memphis University School, he is a VECA volunteer, and is a long-time resident of Vollintine Evergreen. Congratulations!

**Congratulations** to Sara Babcox First for publishing a new children's book, Memphis Boo: Scary Tales of the City. As Sara writes in her blog: I am crazy excited to announce that my name now graces a book spine. Memphis Boo: Scary Tales of the City (Reedy Press, 2016) debuted this month in Memphis stores and online. I had so much fun writing this book. Even the editing process was like an extended coffee date with my friend, creative director, and author of 100 Things to Do in Memphis Before You Die, Samantha Crespo. We'll be appearing all over Memphis this fall to get the word out about some of the city's most spooky awesome eternal beats. Please visit [memphisboo.weebly.com](http://memphisboo.weebly.com) to purchase a



copy or follow me on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/MemphisBoo](http://www.facebook.com/MemphisBoo).

You can also follow me here and on Twitter (@IrgorianGirl). Because yes, I am still working on another children's book and a novel (or two).

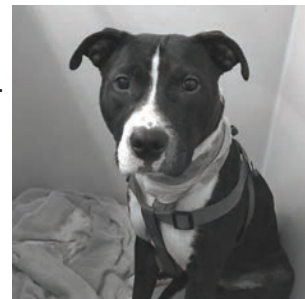
**Congratulations** to the V&E Greenline Committee for the Greenline being named by Thrillist Media Group as one of the most beautiful running paths in Memphis [www.thrillist.com/lifestyle/memphis/best-running-routes-trails-memphis-tennessee](http://www.thrillist.com/lifestyle/memphis/best-running-routes-trails-memphis-tennessee)

**Congratulations** to Rhodes College. The Princeton Review recently released The Best 381 Colleges for 2017, and Rhodes ranks No. 1 on its Most Beautiful Campus list, No. 2 for Most Engaged in Community Service, and Barret Library was ranked No. 6 in the country. See [rhodes.edu](http://rhodes.edu) for complete story.

If you hear of an accomplishment to share, please let us know! [veca901@gmail.com](mailto:veca901@gmail.com) 🐾

## Oliver's Story

Oliver's lucky day came when a group of concerned VECA neighbors saw him roaming the streets this summer. Talking via Nextdoor.com, the neighbors made a plan to catch Oliver. Even more neighbors then came to Oliver's rescue by paying for Oliver's needed surgery — he had an embedded collar removed at Utopia Animal Hospital. Latest report on Oliver is that he is progressing through heartworm treatment and is happily adjusting to life around people. He is said to be a gentle and sweet dog. Oliver is in a foster home now and is available for adoption. A special thanks to Jenna Read! Jenna lives in VECA, she works at Utopia and has instrumental in helping Oliver and keeping us posted! Thank you neighbors for caring and for helping Oliver get off the streets! Oliver's story is an example of how we can use Nextdoor.com for good! Let's keep that going! 🐾



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